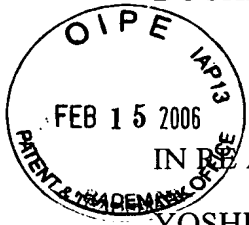


DOCKET NO: 242649US2

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE



IN RE APPLICATION OF :

YOSHIHARU KANDA, ET AL. : EXAMINER: MOONEY, MICHAEL P.

SERIAL NO: 10/660,691 :

FILED: SEPTEMBER 12, 2003 :

GROUP ART UNIT: 2883

FOR: OPTICAL FIBER AXIAL
ALIGNMENT METHOD AND RELATED
DEVICE, AND OPTICAL FIBER FUSION
SPlicing METHOD AND RELATED
DEVICE :

AMENDMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Office Action dated October 18, 2005, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 10 of this paper.